

Kensington Around Town February 2022



Howard Avenue
Book Mural
by Nicole Bourgea



Charter Resolution

Charter Resolution No. CR-01-2022 – To Allow Lawful Permanent Residents or Individuals Authorized to Work in the United States to Vote in Town of Kensington Municipal Elections

Dear Kensington Residents:

The Town was approached by several residents over the last few elections about the possibility of allowing lawful permanent residents, or individuals authorized to work within the United States, to vote within our Town municipal elections. These residents live in our community, and for the most part, own real property, have children who attend school, patronize our businesses, and have requested that we consider allowing them to vote within our Town elections.

In response to the request, the Mayor and Council designed a survey for distribution to all registered voters within the Town to gauge interest on two specific election-related questions. The survey was mailed to each registered voter in September 2021, and included the following questions:

- 1) Should the Council and Mayor propose an amendment to the Town Charter and Code to permit 16- and 17-year-old residents to vote in Town elections?
- 2) Should the Council and Mayor propose an amendment to the Town Charter and Code to permit Town residents to vote in Town elections without requiring them to be US citizens?

The Town received 394 survey responses (1,477 surveys were mailed) and we also made the survey available on our website for individuals who wanted to provide comment but were not currently registered voters. These surveys were differentiated from the mailed surveys, and we received two (2) additional online surveys for a total of 396 survey responses.

Our residents overwhelmingly responded against (70-30) allowing 16- and 17-year-olds to vote in Town

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elections; however, only a slight majority of residents responded against (51-49) allowing non-citizens to vote in Town elections. However, a number of respondents indicated that they would consider supporting lawful permanent residents, or those authorized to work within the United States, if the survey question were clarified.

In response to the survey results, **the Mayor and Council will introduce Charter Resolution No. CR-01-2022, at the February 14 Town Council meeting and schedule the Public Hearing for Monday, March 14, 2022, 7:00 pm.** The Charter Resolution will allow additional public comment by our residents with respect to possibly allowing lawful permanent residents or individuals authorized to work in the United States to vote in our Town election by amending Article VII, Section 701, of the Town Charter:

A CHARTER RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF KENSINGTON AMENDING ARTICLE VII, "REGISTRATION, NOMINATIONS, AND ELECTIONS", SECTION 701, "QUALIFICATIONS OF VOTERS", OF THE TOWN CHARTER TO MAKE PROVISION TO ALLOW A LAWFUL PERMANENT RESIDENT OR INDIVIDUAL AUTHORIZED TO WORK IN THE UNITED STATES ELIGIBLE TO VOTE IN TOWN OF KENSINGTON MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS.

Once the Charter Resolution has been introduced, we encourage all our residents to provide comment by either attending the **Public Hearing on Monday, March 14, 2022, 7:00 pm**, or by sending an email to Mayor.Council@tok.md.gov.

Currently, there are twelve Maryland municipalities that allow lawful permanent residents to vote within their elections, including the following Montgomery County municipalities: Chevy Chase Section 3; Barnesville; Garrett Park; Glen Echo; Martin's Addition; Somerset; Takoma Park; and the Town of Chevy Chase.

The Charter Resolution would not allow lawful permanent residents or those authorized to work within the United States to vote in Federal, State, or County elections. If adopted by the Mayor and Council, voting rights would be extended to lawful permanent residents and those authorized to work within the United States for Town elections only.

We encourage discussion of Charter Resolution No. CR-01-2022 among our many residents and ask that everyone please keep the comments respectful, as we consider extending voting rights to certain residents who already live within our Town.

Building & Town Permits

Please be reminded that both a Town and County permit are needed for any interior or exterior structural changes, with the exception of landscaping and general repairs. Historic District properties will also require a Historic Area Work Permit (HAWP). Please contact the Town staff at 301-949-2424 with any questions.

10115 Connecticut Avenue - Addition
10221 Montgomery Avenue - Addition

3417 Oberon Street - Addition
10508 Connecticut Avenue - Sign
3500 Dupont Avenue - Fence
3612 Dupont Avenue - Fence
10304 Montgomery Avenue - Addition & Demo
3606 Perry Avenue - Deck
10204 Frederick Avenue - Pepco

Town Council Summary



December 13, 2021 Town Council Meeting (held by Zoom Video Conferencing)

- Approved the Town Meeting Minutes of November 8, 2021.
- Approved changing the formal name of the Traffic Committee to the Mobility and Traffic Committee.
- Introduced **Ordinance No. O-03-2021** – An Ordinance to Amend Chapter IV, “Traffic and Vehicles”, Article 3, “Traffic Control”, Section 4-302, “Speed Limits in the Town of Kensington”, to reduce the speed limit along Town maintained streets from 25 miles per hour to 20 miles per hour.
 - The Public Hearing will be held on January 10, 2022, 7:00 pm.

January 10, 2022 Town Council Meeting (held by Zoom Video Conferencing)

- Approved the Town Meeting Minutes of December 13, 2021.
- Approved installing a bump-out at the intersection of Howard Avenue and Fawcett Street to improve pedestrian and vehicle safety. The project will coincide with planned ADA improvements along Fawcett Street.
- Concurred to send a letter of support to Montgomery Planning for the proposed Crossroads at Kensington project, 10619 Connecticut Avenue. In addition to general support of the project, the letter will request that Montgomery Planning encourage additional green infrastructure beyond the County’s requirements within the International Green Building Code (IGCC).
- Held a Public Hearing on **Ordinance No. O-03-2021** - An Ordinance to Amend Chapter IV, “Traffic and Vehicles”, Article 3, “Traffic Control”, Section 4-302, “Speed Limits in the Town of Kensington”, to reduce the speed limit along Town maintained streets from 25 miles per hour to 20 miles per hour.
 - The Public Hearing will be left open until 4:00 pm on Friday, February 11, 2022.

Introduced Ordinance

The Mayor and Town Council introduced **Ordinance No. O-03-2021** at the December 13, 2021 Council Meeting. The Public Hearing was held on Monday, January 10, 2022, and Public Comment will be accepted through 4:00 pm on Friday, February 11, 2022.

AN ORDINANCE OF THE MAYOR AND TOWN COUNCIL TO AMEND CHAPTER IV, “TRAFFIC AND VEHICLES”, ARTICLE 3, “TRAFFIC CONTROL”, SECTION 4-302, “SPEED LIMITS IN THE TOWN OF KENSINGTON”, TO REDUCE THE SPEED LIMIT ALONG TOWN MAINTAINED STREETS FROM 25 MILES PER HOUR TO 20 MILES PER HOUR

The Ordinance may be viewed at the following link:

TOK.MD.gov/ordinance-no-o-03-2021-20-mph-speed-limit

Kensington Historical Society



Welcome to 2022!

We are all looking forward to a year where we can resume all the activities we enjoy. Kensington Historical Society (KHS) shares that hope and is in the process of planning a number of informative and enjoyable activities that will bring us all together again.

In addition to our continued sponsorship of Town events such as the Howard Avenue Concert Series, the Train Show and Opera in the Circle, Day of the Book, Labor Day Parade and Fall Festival, here's what else we are excited to accomplish in 2022:

- Seminar Series – now by Zoom!
- Website update with Member access
- Montgomery History Conference sponsor
- 2022 Calendar
- 45th Anniversary Celebration Gala

Seminar Series:

The Kensington Historical Society (KHS) recently resumed our Speaker Series this past January through Zoom. We would like to thank Bob Bachman for his presentation Boom! How Montgomery County Developed in the 1950's, which is further discussed below.

KHS is looking forward to continuing our popular Speaker Series through virtual events and in-person once COVID restrictions allow.

BOOM!: How Montgomery County Developed in the 1950s

Speaker: Bob Bachman from Montgomery History

A presentation summarizing the rapid development of lower Montgomery County in the 1950s as a suburb of Washington, DC.

The 1950's housing boom almost doubled the number of single-family homes in Montgomery County in one decade. This presentation will focus on the national-level & county-level factors that fueled the housing boom, the federal programs that helped builders & buyers, where the new homes were built in the county, the styles of these new homes, the developers who built them, the architects who designed them, and the role of the National-Capital Park & Planning Commission and the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission in preparing the infrastructure and establishing the procedures to respond to the rapid population growth and housing boom of the 1950's. The presenter will include information about the demographics in the county and the use of restrictive covenants during this time.

Celebrate Forty-Five years of KHS:

Save the Date! On Sunday afternoon, July 17, we will host a Gala Celebration of 45 years of KHS achievements and honor those individuals who were instrumental in those efforts. So, plan on gathering to enjoy the festivities and to learn more about what KHS has done to enhance our Town and celebrate its history. If you are not active with KHS this would be a great time to join, meet people and learn more about how you can become involved.

Kensington Historical Society Organizational News

There have been some changes in the KHS Board of Directors that we would like to announce. We are fortunate to have our seasoned KHS leadership stay engaged while we are bringing in some new individuals to serve in various Board positions. The Board, Officers and Committee Chairs are as follows:

President: Open

Immediate past President Julie O'Malley: Julie has spearheaded KHS for many years and is known to all of

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Kensington as a long-time resident and the Face of KHS. We welcome her continued leadership in her new role.

Vice President Kate DeWitt: Although a new resident of Kensington, Kate has lived in MOCO for many years. Her professional background is in banking and finance and she has served as a board member and officer for many for-profit and non-profit boards.

Secretary Katherine Wood: KHS has been an important resource to Katherine since she moved here five years ago. Now retired from science education she appreciates the opportunity to serve on the KHS Board.

Treasurer Leslie Olson: Leslie has lived in the Town since 1989 and is now retired after working in the commercial real estate management field. She serves on the Audit Committee and the Traffic Committee for Kensington and is pleased to serve as treasurer for KHS.

At Large Jack Gaffey: Jack and his wife have lived in the town for 37 years and are active in Town affairs. In particular, Jack is chairman of the Town's Ethics Commission. He has been instrumental in prior years in obtaining sponsors for the popular KHS calendar. He is a retired Space Physicist, who is interested in Astronomy as a hobby and is a Trustee of the National Capital Astronomers.

At Large Yvonne Gurney: Von has lived in Kensington for over forty years and thinks of the KHS as an integral part of this town's life and appreciates the KHS role as a service organization providing access to old pictures, oral histories and more as well as the sponsorship of community events, author book talks and social celebrations too.

At Large Tracey Furman: Tracey is well known for her leadership as Mayor of Kensington. KHS is pleased she has committed herself personally to serving with KHS.

The members of KHS committees are the ones that truly make things happen. Our thanks go to:

Committee Chairs:

Seminar Series: Patti Poss

Archives: Mary Buckingham & Sigrid Doherty

Calendar: Detta Voesar

Social Events: Katherine Wood

Concert: Leslie Olson

Newsletter: Julie O'Malley

Membership: Kate DeWitt

KHS Welcomes participation of all interested residents in committee work. If you've enjoyed an event like the Saturday concerts or learned something interesting through the speaker series and have ideas for other activities you think would be interesting to KHS members and the public at large, please contact KHS through the website at KensingtonHistory.org.

Montgomery History Conference:

KHS is pleased to announce that we are again sponsoring a session at the Montgomery County History Conference being held January 21 – 29, 2002. This conference is being presented by Montgomery History. We will post information on this conference to KHS members. It looks to be interesting with a lot of great sessions and keynote speakers.

KHS WEB Site and Member Communications:

We are in the process of updating the KHS WEB site and upgrading our member communications tools. Doing this will enable us to put more topical information on the WEB and to be able to communicate directly to members about events.

Kensington Historical Society 2022 Calendar:

This year the calendar celebrates forty-five years of KHS. Are you not a member? Would you like a calendar? You can join and receive your calendar as part of your member benefits. You will also see them for sale at various venues such as Kensington Pharmacy, Kensington Row Bookshop and Town Hall. When you patronize the businesses that support KHS by their sponsorship of the calendar please let them know you appreciate their participation.

KTown Ladies



Happy New Year from the KTown Ladies!

The Town of Kensington and the KTown Ladies were excited to partner in December 2021 to bring Town residents the first annual seasonal lighting ceremony, Light Up KTown. Light Up KTown was also co-sponsored by local realtor Kyle Richards and The Dish and Dram. As part of our new holiday tradition in Town, we also held KTown's first Holiday Home Decorating contest. The homes of all the entrants were absolutely beautiful, but here are the winners:

**The Griswold Award
(Best Overall House and Yard Décor):
Matt Perra and Tony Bonetti
of Washington Street**



**It's a Wonderful Life Award
(Best Classic Decoration):
Katie and Justin Gradowski
of Carroll Place**



**The Winter Wonderland Award
(Most Creative Design – complete with “roaring fire” and musical accompaniment!):
Paul Sexton of Summit Avenue**



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**Traffic Stopper (Wow! Your house is so lit your neighbor is annoyed!):
Melissa Joy and Daniel Martin of Freeman Place**



The winner of the best decorated Town business was Homeworks Kensington, located at 3740 Howard Avenue. We encourage everyone to stop by in 2022 and check out Homeworks' beautiful home furnishings.



Thank you to everyone who participated in the contest!

The KTown Ladies had a very busy holiday season, and we are taking some downtime at the start of the year to rest and rejuvenate for the new year. Looking forward, we're excited to reconnect this year with social events at homes and businesses in our community, as well as special initiatives like the annual Trash to Treasure event this spring. We're particularly looking forward to hosting more home events. If you're interested in opening your home for a KTown Ladies event this year, please reach out and let us know! For our first event of 2022, we are planning an outdoor, festive pre-St. Patrick's Day celebration at Kyle Richards' home on March 16. Get your green beer ready and stay tuned for more details. Have a great start to 2022, and we'll see you all soon!

Kensington Around Town

February 2022



3710 Mitchell Street Office: 301.949.2424
Kensington, MD 20895 TOK.md.gov

To:

KENSINGTON



FARMERS' MARKET

OPEN YEAR ROUND!

Every Saturday 9am-1pm

Howard Avenue Train Station

21+ Vendors

Pets Welcome!

New Vendor Coming Soon!

Frank's Burger Place is signed up and ready to serve our Kensington Farmers' Market once the weather breaks! They will be serving up burgers and their 'Voted Editors' Pick, Best Fried Chicken Sandwich 2022 by Bethesda Magazine! Stay tuned on ExploreKensington.com/Farmers-Market.

Bethesda MAGAZINE
Best of Bethesda 2022

FRANK'S BURGER PLACE



EDITORS' PICK
Best Fried Chicken
Sandwich